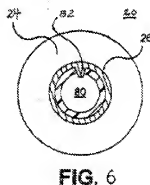
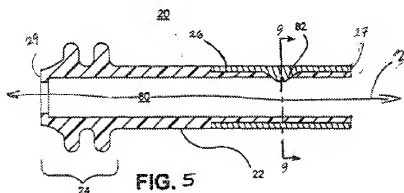


REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,755,694 to Ries et al. ("Ries").

Independent claims 1 and 10 recite a lead connector system for a lead that has a plurality of lead electrodes connected to an array of lead connector pads that are distributed circumferentially in an adjacent spaced apart relationship around a periphery of the lead connector. The lead connector is inserted into an adaptor with a lumen and can be rotated within the adaptor lumen. The adaptor has a connector ring extending circumferentially over a segment of an exterior surface of the adaptor body. The ring has an electrical contact resilient key formed along an inner portion of the connector ring and extends through the adaptor body into the adaptor lumen. Thus, the key forms a projection from the inner lumen surface. The contact key is dimensioned to be in registration with one of the lead connector pads at a time when the lead connector is inserted into the lumen of the adaptor body and rotated relative to the adaptor body about a longitudinal axis. An embodiment is shown in Figs. 5 and 6:



Shown in these drawing figures is a connector ring 26 with a contact key 82 extending into the lumen 80.

Ries is characterized as disclosing an upsizing lead adaptor having a conductor ring. Specifically, conductor 212 and teeth 214 shown in Figure 5 of Ries are relied upon. The structure is shown in Ries as:

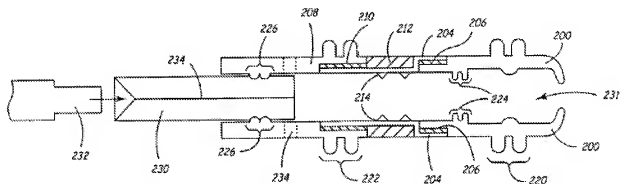


FIG. 5

The upsizing sleeve of Ries addresses only the problem of diameter incompatibility. The teeth 214 are provided only for purposes of engaging a connector ring of a bipolar lead. There is no lead electrode array selectivity. That is, when a bipolar lead 232 is inserted into the lumen of tubular member 208, the connector ring of the lead is engaged by the teeth 214. Rotation of the lead within tubular member 208 does not alter the connections made to the lead electrodes as there is a single circumferential ring that connects to a single electrode of the bipolar lead. Thus, the limitation in claims 1 and 10 that "the key dimensioned so as to be in registration with one of the lead connector pads at a time when the lead connector is inserted into the lumen of the adaptor body and rotated relative to the adaptor body about a longitudinal axis extending from the proximal end of the insulating adaptor body to the distal end of the insulating adaptor body" is absent from Ries. Accordingly, Ries fails to anticipate claim 1. The anticipation rejection of claims 1, 10 and the claims dependent on them should be withdrawn.

Method claim 12 is similar to claims 1 and 10. Claim 12 recites a step of providing an adaptor having the same structural limitations recited in claims 1 and 10. Therefore, method claim 12 and the claims dependent on it are not anticipated by Ries.

In response to these arguments, the examiner states that the features upon which reliance is placed (i.e., "lead electrode array selectivity") is not affirmatively recited in the claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1, 10 and 12 to affirmatively recite structure that affords lead electrode array selectivity. The amendment is supported by, for example, paragraph [0023]:

[0023] FIG. 5 is an enlarged plan view of adaptor 20 according to one embodiment of the present invention and FIG. 6 is a radial section view through section line 9-9 of FIG. 5. FIGS. 5 and 6 illustrate connector ring 26 of adaptor 20 including a key 82 extending inward through insulating adaptor body 22 to function as an electrical contact for coupling with a selected connector pad from the array of connector pads 34, 34, 38 (FIGS. 3 and 4) when connector 40 is inserted within lumen 80. Lead connector 40 is manually inserted into adaptor lumen 80 until a stop 46 (FIG. 3) abuts a distal end 27 of adaptor and connector pin 32 protrudes from a proximal end 29 of adaptor 20 as illustrated in FIG. 7. FIG. 7 is plan view of adaptor 20 fitted over lead connector 40 according to embodiments of the present invention and FIG. 8 is a radial section through section line 11-11 of FIG. 7 showing an interface between key 82 and connector pad 34 according to one embodiment of the present invention. According to embodiments of the present invention, in order to select a connector pad from the array of pads 34, 36, 38, adaptor 20 is rotated about longitudinal axis 2 (FIG. 5) such that key 82 is aligned with the selected connector pad upon insertion of connector 40 within lumen 80, for example connector pad 34 illustrated in FIG. 9.

As described, key 82 couples with a selected connector pad of the array when the connector is inserted into the adaptor lumen. Selection of the connector pad is provided

by rotating the adaptor to align key 82 with the selected pad upon insertion of the connector within the lumen.

Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein are fully responsive to the Final Office Action and are sufficient to overcome the anticipation rejections presented in the Final Office Action. Issuance of a notice allowance is requested.

Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned to expedite prosecution. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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